

# Halifax metro



**GIFT IDEA**  
These overlooked books are worth a read  
**metroLIFE**

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2016

High 4°C/Low 1°C Showers  

Jeanette MacDonald is bruised after a home invasion at her basement apartment.  
JEFF HARPER/METRO



## WHO DID THIS?

**Elderly Halifax woman beaten in brutal home attack**

**metroNEWS**



**KEEP DREAMIN'**  
No white Christmas expected for Halifax  
**metroNEWS**



**Diggin' in her heels**  
Halifax server says she was fired for what she refused to wear  
**metroNEWS**

**Buy 3 Bundles  
Get a 4th FREE!**

1 Lane • 4 People  
2 Hours of Bowling

**Seasonal Savings!**  
December 21<sup>ST</sup> to January 2<sup>ND</sup>

**BOWLARAMA.ca**

3459 Desmond Ave., Halifax  
16 Dentith Rd., Spryfield  
31 Atlantic St. Dart., Woodside





Syrian refugee Ruwad Al Badin decorates gingerbread men at the production facility of Julien's Bakery in Chester on Tuesday. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Refugee with pastry skills preserves Canadian jobs

### SYRIAN CRISIS

#### Entrepreneurs can benefit from refugees, says sponsor

As Ruwad Al Badin deftly prepares Christmas gingerbread men, his employer in southwestern Nova Scotia looks on approvingly, knowing the skilled Syrian refugee is supporting a family, while also helping keep workers employed at the once struggling bakery.

"It's very critical to have him here," said Laura Mulrooney, owner of Julien's Bakery. "It is a skill. It's about the temperature, the dough, the machinery, the butter. He knew what to do. We didn't have to teach him much."

Before Al Badin's arrival several months ago, the bakery's production of artisan pastries had fallen off, and layoffs were a possibility.

"We've been able to stay on

track with Ruwad here," Mulrooney said in a recent interview. "In January, we'll get back to where we were (in production)."

Since late 2015, more than 20,000 government-assisted refugees and 13,500 privately sponsored refugees have arrived in Canada. A year later, some of them are reaching the end of their financial support from governments and private sponsors.

While the precise number of employed Syrian refugees is not yet available, a spokeswoman for Immigration Canada said a survey has indicated 50 per cent of privately assisted refugees and 10 per cent of government-assisted refugees had employment income during their first year.

As for Al Badin, he serves as a good example of how entrepreneurs in Canada can benefit from refugees, says Gail Kelly, a member of the Bay Refugee Group, which sponsored the baker.

However, Kelly says she's also worried about 38-year-old Ziad Zeina, another Syrian refugee

### THE ROAD AHEAD

Mohja Alia, manager of employment at the Immigrant Settlement Association of Nova Scotia, said the pressures to find work will intensify as more of the 1,100 refugees in Nova Scotia lose their financial support from Ottawa or from private groups.

The immigrant agency says the key to a smooth transition for refugees is to find some initial work while attending language programs in their off hours.

"If we just let them go to employment without any support, that's not going to

help," said Alia.

Najdat Barbar, a married father of six-year-old twins who fled the city of Aleppo, has taken a job at Recardo's Take-Out near Tantallon, adopting the approach of finding work where he can.

He has put his skills as a hotel and restaurant manager on hold as he's learning to roll pizza dough for \$11 an hour. During off hours, he attends English class.

"It's OK. I'm still new. I should work anywhere, and I will gain experience about the culture, the people, the weather, everything ... You learn, step by step," he said.

she's helping. Zeina, a married father of four, lost his job as a tile layer because he can't speak English.

In just a matter of months, Zeina's family may have to go

on welfare as \$30,000 in the privately raised funds runs out.

"I know what social assistance means — it means very, very little money and living in poverty," Kelly said. "We'd dearly love

**I'm very happy to help, and I'm thankful for the confidence the owners put in me.**

Ruwad Al Badin, as said through a translator

to find an Arabic-speaking tile company that could train him."

A spokeswoman for the province's Immigration Department said the Nova Scotia government is aware some refugees will need additional support to reach self-sufficiency.

"We are preparing to provide culturally appropriate supports to those individuals and families who may find themselves in need of our assistance," wrote Sarah Gillis.

The Department of Community Services will also hire an Arabic-speaking caseworker.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### FORESTRY

#### No clear cutting, finds poll



**Jen Taplin**  
For Metro | Halifax

A poll released this week by the Ecology Action Centre shows overwhelming support for a ban on clear cutting forests in the province.

In August the Department of Natural Resources said it would abandon its commitment to reduce clear cutting by half.

The poll was conducted in May by Corporate Research Associates for the Ecology Action Centre and found 22 per cent of respondents favoured a ban on clear cutting and 72 per cent supported restrictive regulations. They found only two per cent of respondents felt there should be no restrictions.

"It clearly shows the majority of Nova Scotians ... think there should be a ban or should be significant restrictions on clear cutting in Nova Scotia," said Raymond Plourde, wilderness coordinator at the Ecology Action Centre.

DNR Minister Lloyd Hines said in an email the province adopted a science-based approach to forest management rather than setting a percentage of all harvested land.

"Harvests on Crown land are developed using forest management guides based on input from a pre-treatment assessment carried out in the field by a trained forest professional," he said. "The harvest prescription, either a type of clear-cut harvest or a type of partial harvest, is the result of using the guides on a case-by-case basis with the actual data from the field."

### IN BRIEF

#### New Year's Day party to kick off Canada 150

The launch of Canada 150 celebrations and the annual lieutenant-governor's New Year's Day Levee will be held at the Government House in Halifax. The public is invited to join the celebration, which will start with a flag-raising and singing of O Canada. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 141 Barrington St. METRO



# Firing 'doesn't seem fair'

## LABOUR

**Woman says she was let go, in part, for not wearing high heels**



**Haley Ryan**  
Metro | Halifax

A Dartmouth single mom is questioning whether her recent firing from a popular Halifax nightclub was over high heels, but her employer says they did everything "in line with labour standards."

Ally Robinson, 25, said she's worked in the service industry for years, including at Grafton Connor Group locations like Cheers, and as a bartender at The Dome since October.

Last Friday, Robinson said a manager sent her home for not wearing high heels during her shift.

The next day, Robinson said, she was dismissed by the same woman who told her she was being let go due to not wearing heels, but then added, according to Robinson, "I don't need to give you a reason at all," because the 25-year-old was still under the probation period.

"It blows my mind that they can just terminate without a cause. I would understand if you're not performing up to their standards ... but there had been no issues and I had worked there before," Robinson said Wednesday.

"It doesn't seem fair."

Robinson said she'd had issues with that particular manager harassing her since she began working at The Dome, and shaming her in front of other employees.

Although Robinson said she complained to her general manager about her superior's behaviour on three occasions,



It's not just this company, there's so many companies in the hospitality industry that have these issues. Ally Robinson

Ally Robinson says she lost her bartending job in part for not wearing high heels for work. JEFF HARPER/METRO

## + 'THIS ISN'T RIGHT'

Ally Robinson said all she wants is for companies to realize the toll of anxiety such a dismissal brings when someone is let go without explanation, and would like to see labour standards changed so a valid reason is needed

for any firing, to protect workers.

"Nobody reports anything, nobody tries to stand up to it, and I think that it's just going to snowball and get worse until enough people stand up and say, 'This isn't right,'" Robinson said.

"nothing changed."

High heels were not part of the official attire when Robinson started her job, she said, but a few weeks ago the managers in-

formally told the staff high heels for women would be required.

The fact that heels were brought up at all is an "ongoing joke" with staff, Robinson said,

since customers can't tell who's wearing what shoes even if they lean across the bar.

"There's lemon and lime wedges on the ground that I slip on on a regular basis anyway. They put banana peels in cartoons to shame they are so slippery," Robinson said.

"There's bottle caps, broken glass, and if we slip and slide on flat shoes there's no way you're saving yourself in a pair of heels."

When Robinson asked to wear flats instead since heels "kill my back" after having her four-year-old son, she said the general manager approved a

specific pair.

But then Robinson was sent home last Friday for wearing flats, complained to her general manager that night again about being singled out, and was fired when she came in for her shift Saturday.

As security escorted her out of the building, Robinson said she was in shock and could only assume she was being fired for not wearing heels, and one manager not liking her.

Gary Muise, vice-president of Grafton Connor Group, said Wednesday the labour code makes it clear businesses "don't have to give a reason" for dis-

missal during probation, and said, "We just didn't want her working for us any longer."

He added, "We're doing everything that is in line with labour standards," plus more, since they offered Robinson severance.

When asked for a response to Robinson saying she had done nothing wrong, Muise said he had reports of her "berating all my managers and cursing and swearing at them."

Before Metro could ask whether the heels issue was also a reason, Muise said, "There's no winning in this for me so that's the end of our conversation," and hung up.

## Now borrow up to \$15,000 with an Installment Loan.

### For pesky bills.

Visit a store for details. [moneymart.ca](http://moneymart.ca)



We can help.



Installment loans offered in select provinces only. Loan principal amounts vary between \$1,000 and \$15,000 based upon income and other qualification requirements, including a credit check. Loan term is based on the amount borrowed. Loans have terms of 12 to 60 months with payments scheduled based on your income deposit dates at the time of loan origination. The APR for the loans is 59.9%. Ask a Money Mart Customer Service Representative for details. MONEY MART® is a registered service mark of National Money Mart Company. © 2016 National Money Mart Company. All rights reserved.



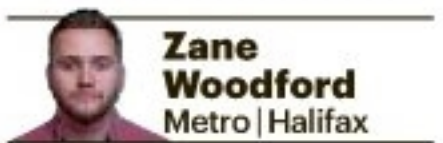


Jeanette MacDonald is left with bruises to her face and chest during a brutal assault Tuesday night at her home in Halifax. JEFF HARPER/METRO

# 'Just a punk, that's all he was'

## ASSAULT

### Senior recounts brutal attack that outraged Halifax



**Zane Woodford**  
Metro | Halifax

An 85-year-old woman says she was "petrified" as she was repeatedly punched in the face and dragged from her home during a brutal assault in Halifax Tuesday night.

Police say they were called to Jeanette MacDonald's home on Pennington Street at 10:45 p.m.

MacDonald said she was home alone when there was a knock at the door. She called out to ask who was there, and when there was no answer, she went to the door.

"I opened the door, and the first thing he said was, 'Give me the money.' I said, 'What the hell are you talking about, I'm not giving you no money.' And he hit me with his fist in my face," MacDonald said in an interview Wednesday morning.

MacDonald said the man,

**We're hoping with it being out in the news, somebody may know something about it, or may have seen someone in the area.**

Const. Dianne Penfound

who she'd never seen before, told her he had a gun and knife.

She continued to refuse his demands for money, and he dragged her outside.

"He said, 'Here's one for ya,' and he let me have it right in the face again," she said.

MacDonald's neighbours rushed to her side when they heard her cries for help.

"I was screaming, I couldn't stand the pain," MacDonald said.

She said the suspect ran away behind her home.

"Just a punk, that's all he was," MacDonald said.

Paramedics treated MacDonald's injuries at the scene.

On Wednesday morning, she had two black eyes, a large bruise on her chest, and her hand was swollen.

"I'm not feeling too bad now, like I was at first, but I'm sore," she said.

Halifax police spokesperson Const. Dianne Penfound said Wednesday afternoon that police had no further leads

## + DESCRIPTION

**The suspect is described as** a slim, 5-foot 5, light-skinned black man with no facial hair, wearing a red sweater and toque.

or information on the case. They're asking anyone with information to call them or Crime Stoppers.

"We're hoping with it being out in the news, somebody may know something about it, or may have seen someone in the area," she said.

## Police urging Nova Scotia seniors to keep their doors closed

A Nova Scotia seniors advocate said the assault on an elderly woman in Halifax this week is a good reminder of the importance of keeping the door locked, but he doesn't want people to be overly worried about incidents like these.

"This kind of violence, especially against seniors, one of the big problems it causes

is that it really worries other seniors," Bill VanGorder with the Canadian Association of Retired Persons said on Wednesday.

"One nice thing about Atlantic Canadians is that we tend to be very understanding people and we believe in the good of everybody. But one of the bad things is that

sometimes we get taken advantage of."

VanGorder said he hopes the suspect is caught quickly, and "made an example of in such a way that everybody understands that this isn't acceptable to treat anybody this way, let alone seniors."

In the meantime, VanGorder said the incident is

a good reminder for seniors to "lock your door, and don't open it to anybody that you don't know."

Halifax police spokesperson Const. Dianne Penfound agrees.

"This lady did nothing wrong," she said. "She answered her door. However, in general, we would say to any-

body, and seniors especially, that if somebody's at your door late at night and you're

not expecting anybody, just don't answer it."

ZANE WOODFORD/METRO

**One of the bad things (about being Atlantic Canadian) is that sometimes we get taken advantage of.**

Bill VanGorder



# WRAP UP YOUR GIFT LIST

STORES OPEN LATE THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

THE BEST GIFTS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES



SHOPPERS DRUG MART® GIFT CARD  
6 styles available  
Reloadable between \$5 to \$300



ITUNES CARD  
\$15, \$25, \$50, \$100  
and \$300 Multipack



THE ULTIMATE DINING CARD  
\$25, \$50, \$75, \$100 and  
4 x \$15 Multipack



STARBUCKS® GIFT CARD  
\$15, \$25, \$50 and  
3 x \$20 Multipack

ALL SET FOR THE HOLIDAYS



OLAY REGENERIST GIFT SET  
While quantities last. No rainchecks  
**\$39.99** VALUE OF \$69.47!



DOVE COOL MOISTURE GIFT PACK  
Includes Dove Cool Moisture Body Wash,  
Anti-perspirant, Shampoo and 2x113g Bar  
Soap, with Bonus Dove Wash Bag  
**\$15.99** VALUE OF \$37.45!



AXE 3PC PHOENIX GIFT PACK  
Axe Phoenix Shower Gel, 2-in-1 Shampoo  
Conditioner, Body Spray. Also available  
in Dark Temptation & Apollo  
**\$11.99** VALUE OF \$20.47!



DOVE MEN+CARE HOLIDAY GIFT PACK  
Includes Body Wash, Dry Spray Antiperspirant,  
Shower Tool, 2-in-1 Shampoo, 2x113g Bar.  
Bonus Wash Bag.  
**\$19.99** VALUE OF \$42.44!



INDIA & PURRY BASKET BATH GIFT SET  
Bath & Shower Gel 100mL,  
Moisturizer Cream 180mL,  
Soothing Body Scrub 180mL  
**\$15.99**



ORAL-B GENIUS 8000  
Electric Rechargeable Toothbrush  
Powered by Braun (Black)  
**\$279.99**



EOS™ 2016 LIMITED EDITION 3 PACK  
**\$12.99**



AMOPÉ NAIL GIFT PACK  
Amopé Nail Care Gadget, Nail Care Refills,  
Nail Care Oil, Cosmetic Bag and Coupons  
**\$69.99** VALUE OF \$140!

Prices in effect December 22, 2016. © 2016 Starbucks Corporation. All rights reserved. ®™ Trademarks of Cara Operations Limited. TM and © 2016 Apple Inc. All rights reserved. See back of gift cards for terms and conditions. All trademarks shown are property of their respective owners and are used with their permission.

GIFTS FOR THEM. POINTS FOR YOU.  
[shoppersdrugmart.ca/holiday](http://shoppersdrugmart.ca/holiday)



SHOPPERS  
DRUG MART





## ALTON GAS

## 'Conquered people' legal brief amended

A controversial legal argument that implied members of a First Nation band are a conquered people has been removed from a Nova Scotia government brief submitted to the court in the Alton Gas appeal case.

The provincial Justice Department confirmed Wednesday that a letter had been filed with the Nova Scotia Supreme Court informing it of amendments to its position.

The brief was presented as part of the government's case against an appeal filed by the Indian Brook band. The band asked the court during a hearing in November to overturn the province's approval of a plan by Alton Gas to store natural gas in salt caverns near the Shubenacadie River. Indian Brook argued before Justice Suzanne Hood that the province has a duty to consult.

But the legal brief presented by government lawyer Alex Cameron, who has since been removed from the case, said the Crown's obligation to consult extended only to "unconquered people."

It said the band's submission to the Crown in 1760 negated its claim of sovereignty and negated government's constitutional duty to consult, a position that

### + FIRST NATIONS

Band chiefs informed the government of their position in a letter written in 2009.

sparked outcry from First Nations people and prompted an apology from Premier Stephen McNeil.

On Wednesday, McNeil said the move would clarify his government's position before ongoing deliberations by Hood wrap up.

"They (the court) would just focus on the part of the brief that was really our argument, which was that we've gone through the (environmental) process and the duty that we have to consult. We feel that we met that obligation and now the court will determine whether we have or we haven't," he said.

McNeil said the step is also necessary because of the offence caused to First Nations in Nova Scotia.

"It takes away the part of the brief that was causing a great deal of concern in the community and didn't reflect our government's view on the Mi'kmaq people of our province," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Protesters gather at the Alton Natural Gas Storage LP office in Stewiacke. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Although there may be possibilities of big storms on the coast with snow this winter, it is still too early to predict, meteorologist Robert Michaud says. METRO FILE PHOTO

# No white Christmas for Halifax this year

## WEATHER

## Environment Canada expects a mix of sun and clouds

Nadiah Sakurai  
For Metro | Halifax

It's going to be a warm Christmas this year for Halifax, and it's highly likely it'll be a green one as well.

The possibility of snow on Christmas Day is low according to Robert Michaud, the meteorologist at Environment and Climate Change Canada. He

said it's looking like it's going to be a mix of sun and cloud, with a high of 3°C.

According to him, Christmas Eve will be a wet one.

"There will be low pressure, which will bring more rain showers," he said.

The chance of rain is 60 per cent. It is expected to be a warm day with a high of 5°C, higher than the normal Halifax temperature for this time of month.

"At the moment, we don't see any snow on the horizon," Michaud said. "(No snow) till probably the end of December or the beginning of next year."

This is due to the low-pressure system that will move into Quebec pumping in warm air from the south west, he



At the moment, we don't see any snow on the horizon.

Robert Michaud

explained.

For those doing holiday driving, next Tuesday will be a warm day with a high of 6°C due to the low pressure system.

Although there may be some flurries late Monday night for Boxing Day, it will change to rain by Tuesday morning.

Despite the unstable weather in Halifax the past week or so, winter for Halifax is looking to be similar to the usual Halifax winter. Although there may be possibilities of big storms on the coast with snow this

winter, it is still too early to predict, Michaud added.

"(It's going to be) pretty much near the average that we expect especially in January and February," Michaud said.

### + PREDICTION

The Dec. 25 forecast right now is calling for some sun with chance of flurries or showers and a high of 3°C.

Dr. Ken Rhodenizer &  
Dr. Stuart Kirby at Anchor Dental  
Are Pleased to Welcome  
**Dr. Jacob Smith**  
**ANCHOR DENTAL**

Suite 195 - 6960 Mumford Road, Halifax  
Mon 8am to 8pm • Tues-Fri 8am to 5pm  
902-453-0060 • anchor dental.ca  
**New Patients Welcome**

## WHY WINTER GOLF?

Awareness  
Golf School  
19th Year of World Class Winter Training

... BETTER SUMMER GOLF!

GIVE THE GIFT OF BETTER GOLF!

FREE Range Session with this ad!  
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

10 Akerley Blvd. Unit 52, Burnside  
902-450-0111 • awarenessgolf.com



## THE TOP 6@6

LAST NIGHT ON 101.3 VIRGIN RADIO:

- 6 Rae Sremmurd  
Black Beatles
- 5 Zayn ft. Taylor Swift  
I Don't Want To Live Forever
- 4 Shaun Frank ft. Ashe  
Let You Get Away
- 3 Drake  
Fake Love
- 2 PARTYNEXTDOOR  
Not Nice
- 1 The Weeknd  
I Feel It Coming



Find the Virgin Radio logo • Virgin Radio 101.3



# Steele HOLIDAYS

## HYUNDAI ON HYUNDAI EVENT

GET A PREPAID CREDIT CARD UP TO \$5,000\*\*



PLUS GET A  
**\$2,000**  
PREPAID CREDIT CARD\*\*

### 2017 SANTA FE

FRONT WHEEL DRIVE, HEATED FRONT SEATS, ALLOYS, BLUETOOTH

**\$75**

PER WEEK\*



### 2017 SANTA FE PREMIUM

FWD, HEATED FRONT SEATS & STEERING WHEEL, POWER DRIVERS SEAT, ALLOYS, BLUETOOTH

**\$80**

PER WEEK\*



### 2017 SANTA FE PREMIUM AWD

AWD, HEATED FRONT SEATS & STEERING WHEEL, POWER DRIVERS SEAT, ALLOYS, BLUETOOTH

**\$85**

PER WEEK\*



### 2017 SANTA FE SPECIAL EDITION

AWD, LEATHER, PANORAMIC ROOF, HEATED FRONT SEATS & STEERING WHEEL, POWER DRIVERS SEAT, ALLOYS, BLUETOOTH

**\$90**

PER WEEK\*



+ FREE SNOW TIRES + \$2,000 PREPAID VISA + RATES AVAILABLE FROM 0%



2017 HYUNDAI

## ELANTRA L

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

**\$35**

PER WEEK\*

SAVE **\$3,000**  
TAX INCLUSIVE SAVINGS

RATES AVAILABLE FROM **0%**

**FREE**

SNOW TIRES WITH PURCHASE OF ANY 2016\*

2016 HYUNDAI

## ACCENT LE

AUTOMATIC, AIR, REMOTE START  
WAS \$16,299

**\$11,559**

OR FINANCE: **\$31** PER WEEK\*

SAVE OVER **\$5,400**  
TAX INCLUSIVE SAVINGS



2016 HYUNDAI

## SONATA GL

AUTOMATIC, AIR, AND MORE  
WAS \$24,749

**\$19,439**

OR FINANCE: **\$52** PER WEEK\*

SAVE OVER **\$6,000**  
TAX INCLUSIVE SAVINGS



2016 HYUNDAI

## TUCSON

1.6 LITRE TURBO PREMIUM AWD  
WAS \$31,549

**\$27,500**

OR FINANCE: **\$74** PER WEEK\*



**BIGGEST SAVINGS OF THE YEAR ON DEMOS**

2017 ELANTRAS



2017 SANTA FE'S



2017 SANTA FE XL'S



**HUGELY OVERSTOCKED!  
ALL 2016'S MUST GO!  
BEST PRICES OF THE YEAR!**

3625 Kempt Road  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Local: 902.982.3980

[www.steelehyundai.com](http://www.steelehyundai.com)

**Steele**  
HYUNDAI



\*Plus tax, freight & fees. Rebate to Dealer. \*\* See dealer for details. † Free snow tires excludes Genesis.



## DONATION

## Mother who lost son finds some comfort



Her son Korey will always be a part of Christmas for Michelle Babineau MacKenzie. TC MEDIA

There's nothing Michelle Babineau MacKenzie would like more than to have her youngest son with her for Christmas.

But she takes comfort, knowing his gifts allow others to enjoy the holidays with their families.

Her son, Korey Bates, was killed in a car accident May 18, 2014, five days before his 20th birthday.

"The first Christmas without him was really hard," Michelle said. "I didn't want to do anything, but Korey was the kind of kid who lived in the moment and he would have been horrified if I got on the couch and stayed there."

She said the entire family has always been supportive of organ donation so following Korey's death, there was no question.

"Korey's organs and tissues were used to help 45 people. That's 45 people having Christmas with their families because of him, and that's joyous."

While her first Christmas after Korey's death was difficult, last year she resolved to embrace the holiday spirit. She took it upon herself to cook a huge Christmas dinner to feed 14 people — subsequently deciding once was enough; she would leave those duties to someone else. TC MEDIA

### POLICE BRIEFS

#### Man killed in two-vehicle crash near Heatherton

A collision on a slippery highway in northern Nova Scotia has claimed the life of a 52-year-old man from Antigonish.

RCMP say the crash happened Wednesday morning on Highway 104 near Heatherton.

Police say the victim was driving a Nissan Altima, which collided with a Toyota 4-Runner SUV.

The two vehicles were travelling in opposite directions at the time.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

#### Woman airlifted to Halifax hospital after car collision

Police in Nova Scotia are investigating a serious crash on Highway 1 in Ardoise.

The RCMP said in a release that a woman driving a car was transported by EHS to the QEII hospital in Halifax with life-threatening injuries.

Members of the Brooklyn Fire Department were called to the accident around 7:30 a.m. Wednesday.

The cause of the car accident is still being investigated. TC MEDIA



Thomas Ted Barrett at Halifax provincial court. Barrett is charged in relation to the death of Laura Catherine Jessome, whose body was found in a hockey bag along the shores of the Mira River. METRO FILE PHOTO

# Trial date set for man charged in '12 murder

## COURTS

## Victim was found in a hockey bag on shores of river

A Supreme Court trial date has now been scheduled for a Glace Bay man facing a charge of second-degree murder.

Thomas Ted Barrett, 41, is

charged in relation to the May 2012 death of 21-year-old Laura Catherine Jessome of Bras d'Or, whose body was found in a hockey bag along the shores of the Mira River in Marion Bridge.

Barrett has elected to be tried by judge and jury and his trial is now scheduled to be held from May 1-19.

A co-accused in the case, Morgan James MacNeil, 25, also of Glace Bay, was charged

### LEGAL

Thomas Ted Barrett will be represented by Dartmouth-based lawyer Michelle Janes who appeared by video link this week to confirm she had been retained.

with second-degree murder but pleaded guilty to manslaughter

and was sentenced to seven years in a federal prison.

Barrett was convicted in March on another count of second-degree murder in connection with the 2006 death of Brett Elizabeth McKinnon. Her skeletal remains were uncovered in 2008.

Barrett was sentenced to life in prison for the crime.

Both McKinnon and Jessome died after being strangled.

TC MEDIA



**Rosevale Family  
Par 3-9 Hole Golf Course**  
We welcome all ages  
and levels.

OUR MEMBERSHIPS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!

**Adult membership: \$350**  
**Couples memberships: \$600**  
**Student membership: \$150**

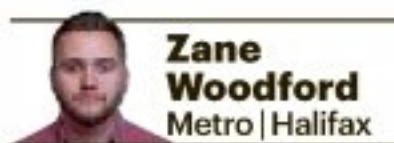
Clubs, Pull and Power cart rentals available

**136 Redden Road,**  
just off HWY 14 towards Martock

**Windsor, NS B0N 2T0 • 902-880-8048**

## POLICE

## Quebec man assaulted in downtown core



Police in Halifax are asking for the public's help after a Quebec man was assaulted downtown last week.

Police say they got a call last Tuesday at 6:40 p.m. about an assault in progress on

Brunswick Street near the intersection at Sackville Street.

The victim told police he was walking on Brunswick Street when he saw a woman in the distance walking toward him, with a man walking behind her "that seemed agitated."

The woman crossed the street, but the man kept walking, and toward the victim.

When the two men crossed paths, the man punched the victim in the face, knocking him to the ground.

Police say the victim, a 46-year-old man from Quebec, was taken to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries to his face.

The suspect, who wasn't known to the victim, is described as a 5-foot-11 white

### CALL TO PUBLIC

Anyone with information is asked to call police or Crime Stoppers.

man in his 20s with blond hair. Police say he was wearing a dark baseball hat, a grey hoodie and jeans.



# First sight of grandkids was on hostage video

## AFGHANISTAN

### Parents say they pretend their captivity is part of a game

The parents of a Canadian man held hostage in Afghanistan say a recently released video of their son and his family marks the first time they've seen their two grandchildren, who were born in captivity.

Canadian Joshua Boyle and his American wife, Caitlan Coleman, were kidnapped in 2012 while travelling in a mountainous region of north-east Afghanistan.

In a video uploaded to YouTube, Coleman — sitting next to her husband and two young children — urges governments on all sides to reach a deal to secure the family's freedom.

Boyle's parents, Patrick and Linda Boyle, said they watched the video on Monday, getting their first glimpse of their



The kids of Joshua Boyle and Caitlan Coleman. TWITTER

young grandsons.

"It is an indescribable emotional sense one has watching a grandson making faces at the camera, while hearing our son's leg chains clanging up and down on the floor," the Boyles said.

The parents say their son told them in a letter that he and his wife have tried to protect their children by pretending their signs of captivity are part of a game being played with guards.

"It is simply heartbreaking

to watch both boys so keenly observing their new surroundings in a makeshift film studio, while listening to their mother describe how they were made to watch her being defiled," the Boyles said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## POLITICS

### Feds aim to prevent anti-trade backlash

Justin Trudeau says his government's focus on bolstering the middle class is aimed at insulating Canada from the kind of populist rage that is fuelling political upheaval elsewhere around the globe.

And affordable housing will be central to his approach in the coming year.

In a year-end roundtable interview with The Canadian Press, the prime minister acknowledged that Canadians are not immune to the anxiety that is fuelling anti-globalization, anti-trade, anti-immigration and anti-government sentiment around the world.

Among other things, he said, Canadians are worried about job security, retirement security and their children's economic prospects.

Trudeau said that feeling of anxiety is not unique to Canada, pointing to Britain's impending departure from the European Union, the rise of populist and nationalist parties in Europe, and the turn that the American election took.

The key to preventing that rage from boiling over here as it has elsewhere, Trudeau said, is to ensure that middle class

Canadians feel they're getting a fair share of the benefits from economic growth.

"In the choices we're making, that's the direction we're taking and it's a little bit heading off some of the issues being faced around the world right now where there is a lashing out at institutions for having failed. And what we see is when people lash out at policies that create growth, and you eliminate growth, not only do the wealthy suffer, but everyone else suffers even more.

"So there's a careful line we're trying to walk to demonstrate that growth that includes the middle class is really the only way to get out of this challenging context around globalization that we're facing."

It's the same message Trudeau delivered almost three years ago at a Liberal convention, long before the impending backlash against globalization was on most political leaders' radar. At the time, he warned that three decades of support for the "growth agenda" based on free trade would crumble because the original promise of prosperity for all hadn't materialized. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## ALBERTA

### As we survive the chill, owl survives a grille

Some high school students, a teacher and an Alberta fish and wildlife officer worked together to free a great horned owl stuck in the front grille of an SUV.

The SUV, which belongs to an employee at a high school near Camrose, southeast of Edmonton, hit the owl while on the highway, and it got caught in the front end.

The employee thought the bird was dead but when she returned a few hours later, she found it staring back at her.

**“It was almost like a fairy tale. It's quite amazing that it survived the impact.”** Lorne Rinkel

Fish and wildlife officer Lorne Rinkel got the call on Dec. 13 and went to the school.

He says students rolled the vehicle into their work bay and the owner gave permission to the shop teacher to cut away part of the grille to help him get out the bird.

Rinkel reached in with heavy leather welding gloves and lifted it out, and says he was amazed it was uninjured.

"It had a small amount of blood on one of its legs, but the legs and wings were fine. There were a lot of happy students taking videos and pictures, almost cheering, you might say."

He placed it in a box for nearly 10 hours in hopes of giving it some time to warm up from the bitter cold.

Rinkel later took it to a rural area and opened up the lid. It hopped out and flew off toward the full moon.

"It was almost like a fairy tale. It's quite amazing that it survived the impact," Rinkel said. "I've seen, unfortunately, lots of dead birds of prey in front grille, but I've never seen one survive."

CFFR/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Some high school students, a teacher and a Alberta fish and wildlife officer worked together to free a great horned owl stuck in the front grille of an SUV. COURTESY GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

## COUNSELLING SKILLS



**Success College**  
Get Ready.

NEW CLASSES  
START IN MARCH  
[successcollege.ca](http://successcollege.ca)

902.865.8283 | 800 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville, NS, B4E 1R8





# Mexicans search for loved ones, answers after blast

SAN PABLITO

## Officials say it's too early to identify cause of explosion

Relatives of workers at a fireworks market flattened by a deadly chain-reaction explosion searched hospitals for loved ones Wednesday as attention focused on apparent lax security that allowed vendors to display their dangerous wares in the passageways between stalls.

Health Secretary Cesar Gomez Monge of Mexico State, where the San Pablito Market is located, said another victim died in a hospital, raising the fatal toll to 32. About 46 people remained hospitalized, five of them in such serious condition that they were fighting for their lives, he added. Ten of the injured were minors including one girl with burns over 90 per cent of her body.

Juana Antolina Hernandez, who has run a stand for 22 years

in San Pablito next to one operated by her parents, escaped the market in a mad dash when the explosions began Tuesday afternoon. The following day she was one of the disconsolate residents waiting outside a local morgue.

"I can't find my father, and my mother is very badly burned," said Hernandez, 49. "I am waiting here for them to tell me if my father is here, but up to this point, nothing."

San Pablito was especially well stocked for the holidays and bustling with hundreds of shoppers when the blast reduced the market to a stark expanse of ash, rubble and the scorched metal, casting a pall over the Christmas season. Dramatic video of the explosion showed a towering plume of smoke that was lit up by a staccato of bangs and flashes of light, the third such incident to ravage the market on the northern outskirts of Mexico's capital since 2005.

Officials in Mexico State, which borders Mexico City, said it was too early to identify a cause of the massive series of blasts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Officials walk through the rubble of the San Pablito fireworks market that exploded in Tultepec on the outskirts of Mexico City, Wednesday. The market was well-stocked for the holidays and bustling with hundreds of shoppers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## GLOBAL DIGEST

BERLIN

### Officials had monitored truck attack suspect

German officials had deemed the Tunisian man being sought in a manhunt across Europe a threat long before a truck plowed into a Christmas market in Berlin — and even kept him under covert surveillance for six months this year before halting the operation.

Now the international manhunt for Anis Amri — considered the prime suspect in Monday's deadly rampage — is raising questions about how closely German authorities are monitoring the hundreds of known Islamic extremists in the country. The issue puts new pressure on Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is running for re-election next year. Critics are lambasting her for allowing hundreds of thousands of asylum-seekers to enter the country, allegedly without proper security checks.

TURKEY

### Ambassador's killer linked to US-based cleric Gulen

Turkey's president on Wednesday implicated a U.S.-based Muslim cleric in the killing of Russia's envoy to Turkey, saying the policeman who carried out

the attack was a member of his "terror organization."

Turkey has accused Fethullah Gulen of trying to destabilize Turkey and says his movement is behind a failed military coup in July aimed at toppling the Turkish leader. Gulen has denied any involvement in the coup. The government however, has labelled the movement "the FETO terror organization" and has cracked down on Gulen's followers, arresting tens of thousands of people for their alleged link to the coup and purging more than 100,000 suspected supporters from government jobs.

TURKEY

### 7-year-old Aleppo tweeter safe in Turkey

A 7-year-old Syrian girl who was evacuated on Monday from eastern Aleppo and whose mother ran a Twitter account in her name met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the Turkish capital, Ankara.

Bana Alabed's mother, Fatemah, began operating the account in September, tweeting on her daughter's behalf.

The account has garnered some 354,000 followers, and has included tweets to Michelle Obama and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, asking for help.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celebrating each life  
*like no other.*



CRUIKSHANK'S

Funeral Home

902.423.7295

PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE

Dignity<sup>®</sup>  
MEMORIAL

LIFE WELL CELEBRATED™

Call to attend our December 28 information session.



In this photo taken Feb. 7, 2001, a herder walks past a pile of dead animals in the hills of Hentii province after a severe snowstorm, also known as a Dzud, in Mongolia. Another unusually harsh winter in Mongolia that's decimating livestock and sending temperatures to minus 56 degrees C may create a humanitarian crisis. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EXTREME WEATHER

## Aid groups warn of crisis as Mongolia hit by harsh winter

Another unusually harsh winter in Mongolia that's decimating livestock and sending temperatures to minus 56 degrees Celsius (minus 70 Fahrenheit) may create a humanitarian crisis, with worse conditions still to come, aid groups warn.

Save the Children and the International Federation of the Red Cross said Wednesday that this winter will likely see vast swathes of the Mongolian steppe affected by the extreme weather phenomenon known in Mongolia as "dzud."

A dzud typically happens once a decade but could strike

for the second consecutive year. The dzud last year killed more than 1 million animals, afflicting the majority of Mongolians who depend on livestock for food, milk and income.

The Mongolian government said last week it met with international organizations including Save the Children, the Red Cross and the United Nations Development Program to discuss efforts to deliver heating, fuel and medical supplies amid "worsening" conditions and heavy snowfall.

Aid groups say the situation is compounded by last year's harsh winter and a deep recession amid

a market bust for Mongolia's mineral exports. The country is struggling to repay debt with its hard currency stocks while household savings have also evaporated.

Red Cross disaster program manager in Mongolia Davaajargal Batdorj said more livestock deaths are expected this year with areas of the country already buried under 1 metre of snow. The organization will begin sending cash to herder families in the far west in the coming weeks.

"It's a natural disaster on top of an economic crisis," Davaajargal said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# Broadband is a basic service: Regulator

## INTERNET ACCESS

### Providers must offer unlimited options, speeds of 50 Mbps

Canada's telecom regulator has declared broadband internet access a basic service across the country, just like current land-line telephone service.

But making full access to ultra-high-speed services a reality could cost tens of billions of dollars, and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission said Wednesday that achieving the goal will take a coordinated effort by it, businesses and governments.

The aim is to ensure service providers (ISPs) offer internet services nationwide at speeds of at least 50 megabits per second for downloading data, and 10 Mbps for uploads, the CRTC said



CRTC Chairman Jean-Pierre Blais announces the ruling on basic telecommunications service. THE CANADIAN PRESS

in announcing the new targets. Currently, about 82 per cent of households and businesses receive that level of service. The CRTC wants that increased to 90 per cent by 2021.

ISPs will also be required to offer unlimited data options for fixed broadband services.

As well, the most advanced mobile wireless service should be made available to all households and businesses throughout Canada, as well as along all major Canadian roads, the regulator said.

"Access to broadband internet service is vital and a basic

telecommunication service all Canadians are entitled to receive," said CRTC chairman Jean-Pierre Blais.

As part of the decision, telecom firms will have access to an escalating \$750-million industry-sponsored fund over the next five years to invest in broadband infrastructure.

The first \$100 million of that will come from a fund that currently subsidizes telephone services in isolated regions.

Advocacy group OpenMedia, regularly one of the CRTC's sharpest critics, was elated at Wednesday's declaration.

"It's a real game changer, especially for rural and underserved communities right across the country," said OpenMedia spokesman David Christopher.

Telecom giant Rogers Inc. called the CRTC plan acceptable, pointing out that it already offers services at speeds of up to 20 times faster than the new target.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## EMPLOYMENT

### Face-to-face crucial for young job seekers

A new report from the federal government's expert panel on youth employment points to a need to move away from digital services for young, first-time job seekers and instead offer more person-to-person contacts and services.

In an interim report released Wednesday, the panel described how young people complete hundreds of online job applications without receiving any response from employers and that the reliance on using personal networks to find jobs is unreasonably high.

Young people with the most success at landing a job do so through the people they know and for those without such a network, the necessity to build connections can be overly intimidating, the report said.

"We are deluding ourselves if we think that by digitizing

the job application process we are making it more democratic. Network effects are as strong as ever and this hurts young people with less social capital," said panel chairwoman Vass Bednar.

The panel's interim report found young Canadians have high levels of anxiety about their future work prospects, even those with post-secondary education and previous job experience — two keys frequently cited as an avenue to a good job.

A Statistics Canada study released earlier this month showed that young people have seen their job quality decline over 40 years, even as the youth unemployment rate has remained relatively unchanged. In both 1976 and 2015 it was 2.3 times higher than the rate among those aged 25 and older.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**"We are deluding ourselves if we think digitizing the job application process makes it more democratic."**

Vass Bednar

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Trudeau sees an 'opportunity for Canada' if U.S. steps back

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says if the United States takes a step back on fighting climate change under Donald Trump, Canada will capitalize.

After a Calgary speech to business owners, Trudeau was asked whether he was committed to his climate plan, which includes a national price on carbon, even if it makes Canada less competitive with the U.S. under the incoming president, who has sent mixed messages on the climate issue.

"Let's see what the president actually does once he becomes president and what he says and let's not overreact ahead of time. But the challenge of climate change isn't a debate



**"We know that this is the way the world is going."**

Justin Trudeau

or linked to a political ideology. It's a fact," Trudeau responded Wednesday. "We know that this is the way the world is going and if the United States wants to take a step back from it, quite frankly, I think we should look at that as an extraordinary opportunity for Canada and for Canadians."

He said that opportunity exists with investors who are

looking 10 to 20 years down the road.

Trump has sent mixed signals on whether he will try to slow Earth's warming temperatures and rising sea levels.

Since he was elected, Trump has met with prominent climate activists Al Gore and Leonardo DiCaprio. He's suggested his daughter Ivanka, a close adviser, has a particular interest in the issue and could be his envoy.

But he has also tapped oil industry champions for his cabinet, men who say they're determined to reverse President Barack Obama's efforts to rein in emissions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## market minute

**DOLLAR**  
74.59¢ (-0.22¢)

**TSX**  
15,305.89 (+12.93)

**OIL**  
\$52.49 US (-81¢)

**GOLD**  
\$1,133.20 US (-40¢)

**NATURAL GAS:** \$3.54 US (+28¢)  
**DOW JONES:** 19,941.96 (-32.66)

## HOUSING

### Report says homes least affordable in eight years

RBC Economics Research says owning a home in Canada is less affordable now than at any time in nearly eight years with the average affordability measure set at 44.3 per cent.

The report shows that a dip in home resale activity could not stop further

declines in affordability in all markets across Canada during the third quarter of 2016.

The report also shows that for the first time in almost two years, Greater Toronto pushed the Vancouver area from top spot as the city with the most significant erosion in affordability.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Busy Bee Tools

### BOXING WEEK SALE DECEMBER 19TH - 31ST, 2016

#### HUNDREDS OF BOXING WEEK DEALS & DOOR CRASHERS



#### EXCLUSIVE IN-STORE FLYER

<b>40% OFF</b>  <b>\$119</b> CX903 Reg. \$199	<b>23% OFF</b>  <b>\$339</b> CT186 Reg. \$445
<b>62% OFF</b>  <b>\$14.99</b> B3053 Reg. \$39.99	<b>24% OFF</b>  <b>\$189</b> CX900 Reg. \$249

**(902) 468-8088**  
**busybeetools.com**

Sale ends Dec 31st, 2016. Errors & omissions excepted

**STORE LOCATION**  
86 Troop Avenue  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B3B 1Z1





## CHANTAL HÉBERT ON POLITICAL NEWS' DECENTRALIZATION



### The days when there was something special or newsworthy about a broadcaster serving up a prime minister to a festive nation have gone.

Once a staple of the holiday news season, the televised prime ministerial fireside chats are well on the way to joining the ghosts of Christmases past.

The CBC and Radio-Canada — among others — have opted out of the format, rightly concluding that the days when there was something special or, for that matter, newsworthy about deferentially serving up a prime minister to a festive nation had gone.

So have the days when a government leader had to rely on a handful of major networks to reach a national audience.

Interviews with the prime minister are a dime a dozen this December. On top of various year-end Parliament Hill interviews and a news conference, Trudeau has spent the past week on a year-end tour.

At the end of last week, he was in Montreal taking questions from Radio-Canada viewers. This week he spent time in Vancouver and Calgary.

There was a time when a contingent of Parliament Hill reporters would have tagged along. But trips outside the parliamentary precinct are so few now, as it is possible to catch Trudeau live in action from one's computer at no cost to media organizations.

This year marked the 150th anniversary of the Parliamentary Press Gallery. For its

**Over the years, a lot of policy expertise and knowledge has been farmed out of the parliamentary press gallery.**

members, it was a bittersweet occasion.

In tandem with the larger journalism universe the gallery's membership has been shrinking. That may be even

with the narrative at a distance from the capital. The members of the gallery truly were the ears and eyes of Canadians on Parliament Hill for more than a century.



These days, most of the fireworks in Canadian political news comes from reporters and commentators outside Ottawa.

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

truer of the institution's collective influence. The challenging economics of journalism tell only part of the story.

When I came to Parliament Hill in the late '80s, Le Devoir's Montreal-based justice reporter would hop on a bus and travel to Ottawa every time the Supreme Court released a major ruling.

Collecting it in person was the only way to get the text of a decision on the day it was rendered. For that reason, larger news organizations often based their justice reporter on Parliament Hill.

With the exception of the televised House debates, pretty much anything that happened around or on the Hill was only accessible to journalists who were physically present on the premises. It was impossible to keep up

But today, the Globe and Mail's André Picard writes the most authoritative health-policy column on offer ... from Montreal.

In English as in French, the bulk of the immigration and foreign-policy commentary and analysis no longer emanates from Parliament Hill bureaus.

Every year, the budget lockup draws a gaggle of columnists and editorialists who normally toil in Montreal and Toronto. With access to federal finance documents at the tip of anyone's fingers, more fiscal policy coverage than ever is done outside the federal capital. And, of course, it is no longer necessary to have a desk a few blocks down from the Supreme Court to obtain its rulings in real time.

The much-watched At Issue

panel on CBC's The National has never had a permanent member whose exclusive workplace was Parliament Hill. (I have been splitting my time between the federal capital and Montreal for 20 years.) And yet parliamentary insiders regularly vote it as the most influential media panel.

Over the years, a lot of policy expertise and knowledge has been farmed out of the press gallery, and, with it, many of the relationships that ministers and mandarins used to nurture with those who were on the beats that pertained to their portfolios.

As a consequence but also as the result of the practice of clickbaiting, the ratio of politics reporting versus public policy coverage coming out of the parliamentary press has steadily increased. The press gallery has become more diverse but polls suggest its output has tended to become less germane to the priorities of voters.

Parliament Hill remains the only place in the country where conflicting political currents come to clash. The dynamics are a must-watch for anyone who wants to understand how complex Canada is. That is not easily done via a computer screen.

It is impossible to imagine national political coverage without a parliamentary component. But regardless of their number, the daily reporting of Parliament Hill media insiders is probably no more likely to be restored to pride of place in the national conversation than the cosy fireside chats of the not-so-distant past.

**Chantal Hébert** is a national affairs writer.

## VICKY MOCHAMA

### It's better to give than to receive, but taking has its place, too

In the lead-up to the Plunderer-Elect of the United States taking the oath of office, it's become clear that this is the Age of the Thief.

Almost every cabinet appointment seems designed to enrich either the Trumps or their billionaire friends. Trump is draining the swamp but only so he can sell the water back to the thirsty swamp dwellers in gold-embossed bottles.

The next four years will consist of so many bold acts of theft. And not just in the United States.

In Toronto, police are searching for a white male who has robbed five downtown banks in the last month. However, knowing that the public loves a criminal they can cheer for — hello, all superheroes — the police have adorably named him the "lunchtime bandit." Such creativity from a force that has only managed to come up with Black Male Known To Police for so many other suspects.

(If I'm ever arrested, please tell the police my moniker is White Woman.)

The robber is brazen but only because he knows that no one suspects clean-cut white men of crimes. He can simply slide a note to a teller saying he's armed and be out of there in minutes.

According to Staff Insp. Mike Earl, this particular perp might not be all bad. "Maybe he's never been in trouble before," he said.

"Maybe he's an educated individual who's down and out and this is his only hope to get some kind of money."

That is exactly the kind of empathy that we'll need in the coming years. No one is a criminal anymore! Donald Trump isn't a fascist and a kleptocrat. He's just "an educated individual" trying to make a living.

For that reason, Doris Payne is my Pilferer of the Year. Doris is an international jewel thief who has spent over five decades stealing expensive jewelry. And getting away with it. My girl Doris, who is 86, was arrested just last week for stealing a necklace in suburban Atlanta.

While former stockbroker and convicted fraudster Jordan Belfort got an Oscar-worthy portrayal by Leonardo DiCaprio, Doris's 50 years of high-stakes thievery has so far only generated rumours of a Halle Berry-attached biopic.

(DiCaprio himself seems to like a scammer; he also played conman-turned-FBI consultant Frank Abagnale in 2002's Catch Me If You Can.)

Doris Payne's story is like the Thomas Crowne Affair meets the Best Exotic Mari-gold Hotel, but starring a fabulous and unrepentant black woman. What does a black woman have to steal to get Viola Davis to play her?

In this season of giving, let's not forget to celebrate the takers.

**metro**  
Your essential daily news

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, PRINT  
**Sandy MacLeod**

VICE PRESIDENT & EDITOR  
**Cathrin Bradbury**

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT,  
REGIONAL SALES  
**Steve Shroot**


MANAGING EDITOR HALIFAX  
**Philip Croucher**

ADVERTISER INQUIRIES  
adinfolifax@metronews.ca  
General phone 902-444-4444

FREE TO SHARE 

**PHILOSOPHER CAT**  
by Jason Logan

INTOLERANCE  
IS EVIDENCE OF  
IMPOTENCE.



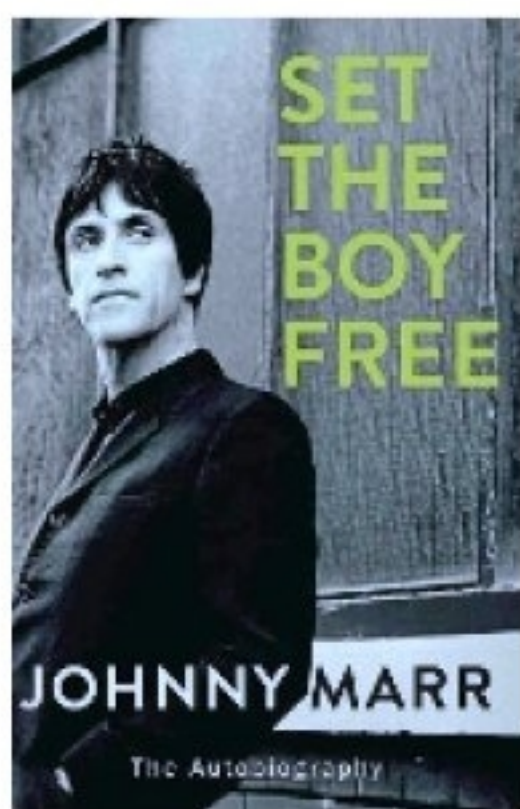
ALISTER CROWLEY

Philosopher cat now at  
[www.mymetrostore.ca](http://www.mymetrostore.ca)



## Overlooked but wonderful reads

With thousands of books published each year, narrowing down a new holiday read or gift can be daunting. There are the award winners and the bestsellers, the book club picks and the big names. But if you're looking for something a little different, here are five titles worth seeking out: **SUE CARTER/FOR METRO**



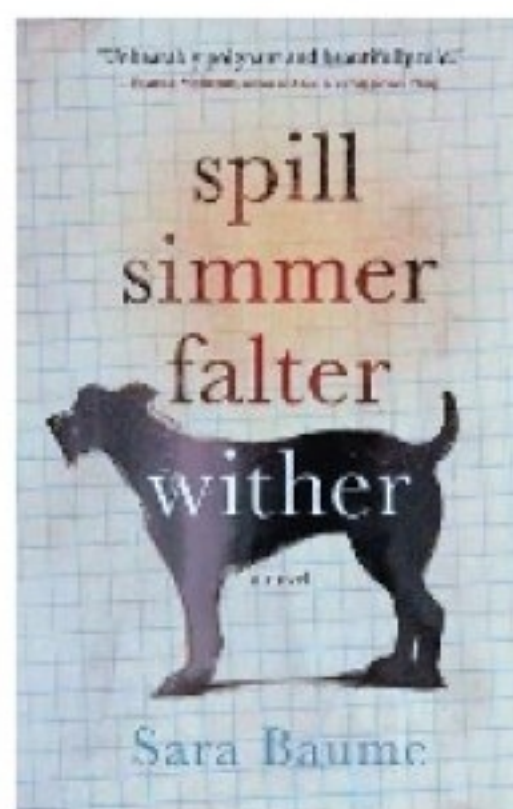
### The fascinating Mr Smiths

In a year dominated by memoirs from Bruce Springsteen, Amy Schumer and Carrie Fisher, it was easy to miss Johnny Marr's **Set the Boy Free**. Marr and Morrissey, who co-formed the beloved 1980s band the Smiths, became as famous for their contentious break-up as their writing partnership. But Marr's entertaining autobiography keeps the mudslinging to a minimum, delivering a delightful history of a life dedicated to music.



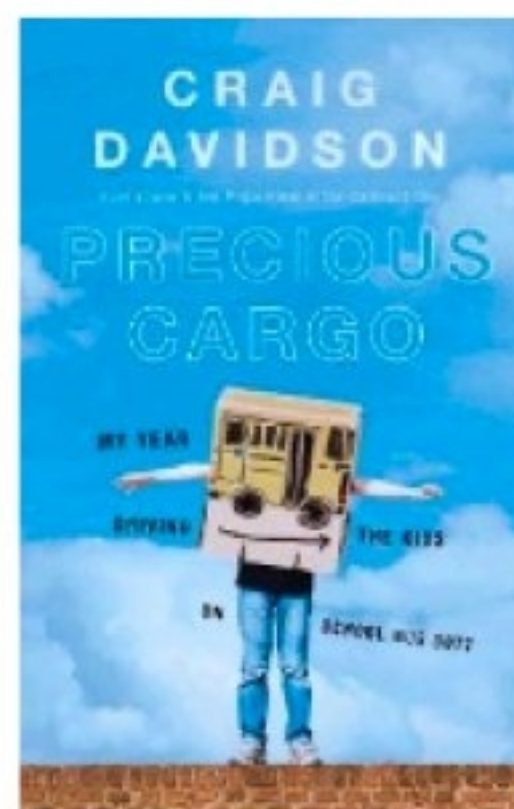
### Thrill ride through Vancouver

Vancouver author Jen Sookfong Lee combines literary and crime fiction in her third novel **The Conjoined**, about a social worker who discovers the bodies of two girls — who turn out to be long-missing troubled foster children — in her recently deceased mother's freezers. Lee draws from Vancouver's social history, pop culture and an exploration of family dynamics for a woman-focused, refreshing take on the traditional thriller.



### Man and dog in dark times

Before it was published in Canada this year, Irish writer Sara Baume received a long list of accolades in the U.K. for her debut novel **Spill Simmer Falter Wither**, set in a small village inspired by her own home. Baume breathes new life into an old trope about a man and his dog, with beautiful, lyrical language and a startling, dark conclusion. This is one of the most quietly devastating books of the year.



### A funny, charming bus journey

Craig Davidson has earned a tough-guy reputation, both for his hard-hitting books (and the film adaptation of *Rust and Bone*) and his horror-writing pseudonym Nick Cutter. In his charming memoir **Precious Cargo: My Year of Driving the Kids on School Bus 3077**, the Calgary author recalls a tough period when he took a job driving a bus for special-needs students, proving that he is also sensitive and empathetic, with a sharp sense of humour.



### Single women on a mission

Journalist Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan's first novel, **Sarong Party Girls**, explores the lives of Jazzy and her friends, all twenty-something Singapore women on a mission to snag rich *ang moh* (Western expat) husbands and to give birth to "Chanel babies." Told in 'Singlish' — a hybrid patois of Singaporean English — Tan, who did plenty of research to capture the scene, exposes a sordid but fascinating world of nightclubs and lounges ruled by racism and misogyny.



#### BOOK SALES

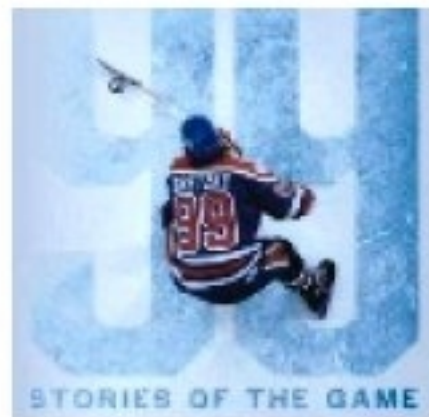
## Gretzky skates away with another title as year's biggest seller

Wayne Gretzky has scored a literary win by penning the top-selling Canadian title of 2016.

BookNet Canada identified the top-selling books over a 48-week period, from Jan. 4 to Dec. 4.

99: *Stories of the Game* written by Gretzky and Kirstie McLellan Day was No. 1 on the non-fiction list, ahead of *Oh She Glows Every Day* by Canadian blogger Angela Liddon, and *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo.

In the fiction category, *The Nest* by Cynthia D'Aprix



Sweeney took the top spot.

The *Couple Next Door* by Toronto author Shari Lapena was the highest-ranked Can-

adian title, in eighth place, one spot ahead of *The Illegal* by award-winning author Lawrence Hill.

Noah Genner, president and CEO of BookNet Canada, said year-to-date print book sales have been fairly flat compared to 2015.

The market bumped up for the first time in a few years in 2015 due in part to the colouring book craze, he noted.

"Last year, colouring books were massive ... and they had a huge year and sold really well — especially near Christmas

as Christmas gifts. It actually was enough to lift the whole market up," said Genner.

"This year, we're not seeing that same lift from the colouring book. They're still selling well, but not anywhere near where they were selling last year. Last year was a phenomenon.

"Generally, it's been a pretty good year in print book sales, actually, both at the indies and at the chains and online. It's been pretty consistent across all the channels."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

#### TOP SELLERS OF 2016

##### Fiction

1. *The Nest* by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney
2. *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins
3. *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
4. *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins (Movie Tie-in Edition)
5. *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes

##### Non-fiction

1. 99 by Wayne Gretzky with Kirstie McLellan Day
2. *Oh She Glows Every Day* by Angela Liddon
3. *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo
4. *Tropical World* by Millie Marotta
5. *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur

BOOKNET CANADA



# Bringing back an old-school Legend

## INTERVIEW

### Singer's role in La La Land sees him return to musical past

When he was a kid, multiple Grammy winner John Legend was in high school musicals, including *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. So perhaps it was in the cards for him to take on two roles in *La La Land*, a movie being credited with re-energizing the classic genre.

Written and directed by Damien Chazelle, *La La Land* opens on Christmas Day.

Legend is both an executive producer on the film and acts and sings onscreen as hit-seeking bandleader Keith. To prepare for the part, Legend worked with an acting coach and learned to play guitar. He also wrote the song he performs with co-star Ryan Gosling, *Start a Fire*.

Legend's Keith is a longtime friend of jazz musician Sebastian (Gosling), who seems far away from his dream of opening his own club. Keith's band is enjoying success with a far more commercial sound than the purity that Sebastian champions. When Keith offers him a job, it comes at a cost to Sebastian's relationship with struggling actress Mia (Emma Stone) and his vow to stay loyal to his music.

A co-writer on *Glory*, a Best Original Song Oscar winner from the film *Selma*, Legend sat down during the Toronto International Film Festival for a Canadian exclusive interview to talk about his work in *La La Land*.

#### What job came first: the executive producer or the acting?

It was all kind of bundled together in the same conversation. They wanted me to write a song for (*La La Land*) and possibly perform in it as an actor... and come on as an executive producer to help with the music. But (Chazelle) held out the possibility that he might want me to play Keith and I looked at the role and said, 'Yeah, I could do this.' I understand Keith as a character, and it's something I think I (could) do. Damien took a leap of faith because he had never seen me act before. He had to just speculate that I might be good at it and I think he's OK with his decision now.

#### We don't know much about the friendship between Sebastian and Keith. Did you work out a backstory?

We talked about that with Damien and basically the idea was that these

**You feel their story, you understand what it's like to have a dream and to want to pursue that.**

John Legend

guys probably went to music school together and they both kind of have the same foundation as talented musicians who come up through the jazz school of thought, but one of them decides to cleave through that tradition more and the other one decides to kind of push himself beyond the boundaries of what traditional jazz would allow. Damien didn't want one to be perceived as inherently better than the other, but just different choices. This has been seen in films before, this idea of selling your soul for rock'n'roll. Right. And so (Chazelle) wanted that tension, but he also didn't want



John Legend with Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling in *La La Land*. DALE ROBINETTE/ENTERTAINMENT ONE

Keith to be a crappy musician that everyone thought, 'Well, that's terrible.' He wanted it to be a viable option; this is good in its own way. It's different from what Gosling's character's trying to do, but it's still a viable option.

#### Why do you want to be involved with movies?

I've always loved history and... a lot of the films that we get involved with and the television shows we get involved with are kind of historically based. And I think film has a power to connect in a really powerful way and a beautiful way, and I love the interaction of film and music, and most

of it in things I work on have that interaction where we write songs for it. For instance, *Underground*, a television show that we produced (for WGN America), we were very involved in the music, so I feel like it's an extension of my music career and my career as a storyteller and as an artist.

#### Are movie musicals an old-fashioned concept?

Great stories never go out of style. Great characters never go out of style. Great filmmaking never goes out of style. And I think the power of this film is that you feel a real human connection to Sebastian and Mia, you feel their story, you understand what it's like to have a dream and

to want to pursue that. It's really great writing and great dancing, great performances. What's not to like? Even if this genre is supposedly on life support, I think Damien certainly provided enough jolt to it and reinvigorated it for 2016.

#### How does Ryan Gosling hold up as a musician?

Oh, he's so good! He really worked on being a great pianist for this and I was so impressed. And they (Stone and Gosling) sound great together, their singing and their dancing is just magical. It kind of took me by surprise to see how beautifully they were dancing together.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



**Bring Home Canadian Cheese<sup>®</sup> this holiday season.**

Visit your specialty cheese section to discover flavours for any occasion.

Dairy Farmers  
of Canada

all you need is  
**cheese**



# 'I waited until the last minute!'

## GIFT IDEAS

### A few tips so you can survive shopping at the 11th hour

Astrid Van Den Broek

You really don't want to resort to gift cards this coming Christmas, do you? I mean they're fine as a gift — people certainly love getting them — but nothing screams "I waited until the last minute!" than a gift card under the Christmas tree.

But if you're in a bind and actually did wait until the last minute, fear not. Help is here with some scoop on how to shop — with thought — at the 11th hour of Christmas Eve.

#### Go in with a plan

Hitting a mall with hopes of knocking several people off your list? "Research ahead of time whether inventory is available — sites like Indigo, Sport Chek, Canadian Tire, and Best Buy will tell you what exactly is in stock, or you can always call ahead to confirm," said Brittany Rycroft, the blogger behind [canadiangiftguide.com](http://canadiangiftguide.com). Better yet, buy online and pick up in store.

#### Think online, part 1

Want to get an online gift that's truly personal? Try a gift subscription box service. "No one will fault you for showing up empty-handed because they'll be getting gifts for months!" said Rycroft. Some of her favourites include Food Trip To (a multicultural food box subscription from Quebec) and FabFitFun (a box of trending full-size

products for women). Subscription boxes work for a variety of people on your list — even your pets!

#### Think online, part 2

Really stuck? Try memberships such as Amazon Prime which, for a monthly cost, offers fast shipping — as fast as the next day. Or try apps such as Giftagram, says Rycroft. "This lets you browse hundreds of gift ideas by interest or theme or price point," she said. "Then your recipient receives a text or email alerting them you're sending a gift, and they provide their preferred delivery address to receive the item within a few days. It lets you get those cool, curated gifts without worrying about whether that indie boutique is actually going to be open when you're in a mad rush."

#### And if you prefer bricks and mortar...

Rather shop in store right? "I have two go-to retailers where you can buy gifts for virtually anyone on your list," said Rycroft. "Indigo has everything from electronics to books to fashion items and is as close to a one-stop shop as you'll find in Canada. I also really like Hudson's Bay because you can get

## + TIPS

**DO...park somewhere you'd normally never park.** "There can be better spots — or spots, period — in weird places like the upper levels of a parkade," suggested blogger Brittany Rycroft. **DO...dress properly.**

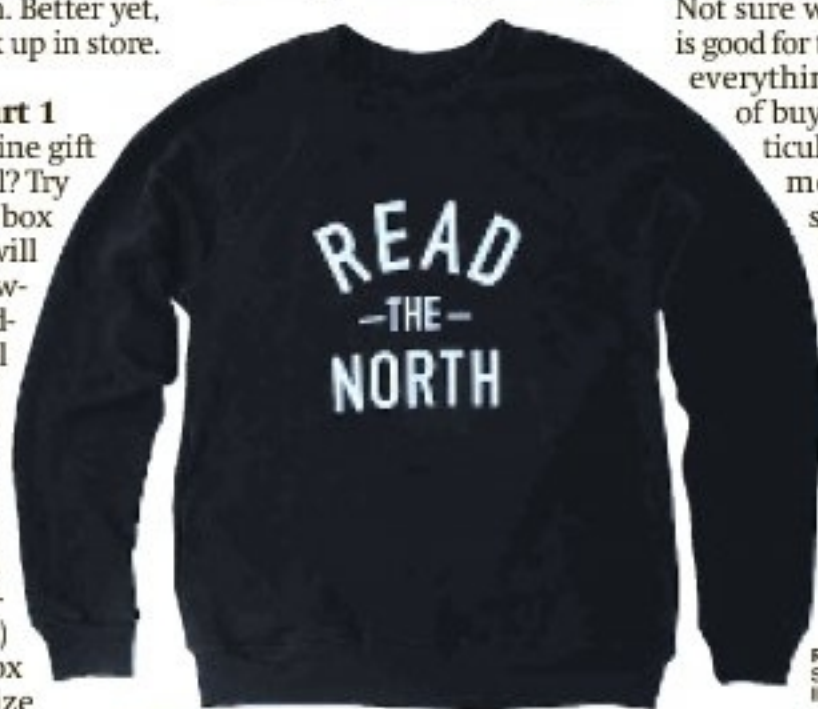
"This is such a simple one that people forget," said Rycroft. "You're going to be dealing with crowds and warm store temperatures so leave your heavy parka at home and opt for a lightweight jacket or vest."

**DON'T...blow your budget.** "If you're scrambling, you can feel pressure to splurge on whatever's available or easy to get," said Rycroft. "If that's the case, you're better off getting a gift card and printing out a web page of the item it's meant to go toward."

beautiful, comfortable clothing and housewares for every member of the family."

#### Try experiences not things

Not sure what last-minute gift is good for the person who has... everything? "I love the idea of buying experience, particularly if it's something more offbeat than a spa gift card," said Rycroft. "For example, Breakaway Experiences sells one-of-a-kind activity packages for things like flying lessons, dog sledding adventures and craft beer tours."



READ THE NORTH SWEAT SHIRT, INDIGO, \$59



PERFORATED LEATHER POUCHES, WINNERS, \$29.99 EACH



SMEG RED BLENDER, LOWE'S, LOWE'S.CA, \$349



LIVE CASES, GOOGLE.CA, \$50



DE'LONGHI BAR ESPRESSO & CAPPUCCINO MACHINE, LOWE'S, LOWE'S.CA, \$249



Put Everyone  
On Your  
Christmas List.

When you shop local  
you give the gift of a  
stronger, healthier economy  
to all Nova Scotians.

[selectnovascotia.ca](http://selectnovascotia.ca)

#CommitToLocal





# Flavoured butters mean tasty turkeys

YUMI YUMI

## Some delicious additions for your holiday meal

Tina Anson Mine

Butter isn't a heart-healthy monounsaturated darling like olive oil, but it gets better press than old-school margarine. As a result, Canadians are eating about 2.8 kilos per person annually, according to the International Dairy Federation and Statistics Canada. And while the Heart & Stroke Foundation still recommends moderation, butter is a delicious holiday indulgence that can create a succulent, crispy-skinned turkey to grace your holiday table.

Compound butters, enhanced with spices, herbs or other flavourings, are an easy way to fancy-up this traditional holiday main. Below are some delicious additions to try; start with about 1/3 cup butter, softened, and add seasonings a little at a time, tasting as you go until the mixture



Kick your turkey up a notch by using a variation of spices and herbs to flavour your butter baste. ISTOCK PHOTOS

is to your liking. Just remember that strong flavours will make their way into the drippings and any gravy you make from them.

**Citrus zest:** Finely grated orange or lemon zest adds a sunny flavour that's terrific with fresh or dried herbs. Lime zest can be a bit more aggressive and bitter, so use it sparingly or partner with other bold flavourings, such as hot peppers and chile powder.

**Fresh or dried herbs:** Finely chopped fresh parsley, thyme and sage are naturals with turkey. Rosemary, cilantro and oregano

are stronger, so start small and add more if you like a bossier butter. Dried herbs are easier to find in the colder months, but their flavours are more concentrated. Bay leaves are lovely with turkey — loosen the skin over the breast and rub butter underneath, then tuck in the leaves. Just remember to remove them before carving.

**Spices:** Ground black and white pepper are obvious choices, but it's fun to branch out with more exotic flavours. Ground cloves or coriander,



smoked paprika, grated nutmeg and dry mustard are all tasty with mild turkey.

**Hot peppers:** Add excitement with hot pepper flakes, chopped dried chiles, or minced canned chipotles or fresh hot peppers, such as jalapeños or habaneros.

**Garlic:** Garlic is made to go with butter, especially when combined with herbs. Make extra so you can whip up a loaf of garlic bread later on.

**Bacon:** Bacon adds a divine smokiness. Cook chopped

bacon until crisp and drain on a paper towel before mashing into butter.

**Shallots, green onion or onion:** Sautéed in a little bit of butter, these add a slight sweetness to flavoured butters and play nicely with almost any other flavouring.

**Booze:** Try dry red or white wine, dry sherry or your favourite brown liquor, such as bourbon, rye or whiskey. Any of these is heavenly with sautéed shallots.

**Maple syrup or honey:** Blend just a touch of these sweet-

### + BUTTER UP

The easiest way is to simply rub softened flavoured butter all over the skin before roasting. You can also soak cheesecloth in the melted butter mixture and lay it over the breast so that it self-bastes in the oven. Or gently loosen the skin using your finger or a chopstick, and rub butter underneath. All three methods will deliver an Instagram-worthy holiday turkey with moist white meat and crispy, golden skin. Roll any leftover flavoured butter into a log, and then cover and refrigerate or freeze for later. Toss with steamed veggies, or dab on a sizzling steak for a delicious finish.

eners into butter that has been enhanced with herbs, citrus zest, chiles or even dry mustard.

**Anchovies:** These add a deep layer of umami, or savouriness, to dishes — and their fishy flavour disappears when they're cooked. Pair anchovies with garlic for a to-die-for butter that's also excellent on steak.

**'TIS THE SEASON FOR SHOPPING & SAVING!**

**THE VILLAGE SHOPS**  
AT DARTMOUTH CROSSING

**SHOP. DINE. UNWIND.**

QUEST FACTORY BANANA REPUBLIC COCONUT CREEK PSEUDIO GAP

DARTMOUTHCROSSING.COM | VIA BURNSIDE / HIGHWAY 118

## Budget friendly holiday sides

Sticker shock at the grocery store is nothing new for Canadians. According to the Food Price Report 2016, published by the Food Institute of the University of Guelph in Ontario, a weaker Canadian dollar pushed food prices significantly higher in 2015. The institute forecast more increases for 2016, especially in the produce and meat aisles of the supermarket — a prediction that's come true, if my grocery-store receipts are any indication.

Big holiday dinners usually require some budget-breaking, but what's a hungry holiday cook to do in a climate where a single cauliflower can cost \$8, and organic wild rice clocks in at \$25 a kilo? Answer: try something new and cheaper.

**Swap asparagus for green beans.** Canadian asparagus has a short (but wonderful) season in the spring. The rest of the year, this vegetable gets flown in from warmer climes, often South America, making it pricey. Instead of coughing up \$6 or more a bunch, try less-expensive fresh green beans instead. Their mild flavour is delicious with butter and toasted sliced almonds.

**Sub in broccoli for cauliflower.** Early 2016 was bad for cauliflower lovers. While prices have dipped below the crazy \$8 per head peak, this can be more of a luxury veg at



Sub brown or white rice for wild. Brown basmati rice costs about a quarter of the price and has a nice, chewy texture and a subtle nutty flavour.

ISTOCK PHOTO

times. Luckily, broccoli works in many of the same dishes — hello, cheese sauce — so it's an easy swap. Don't forget to peel and slice the delicious stems and cook them along with the florets to get maximum bang for your buck.

**Use romaine instead of baby greens.** Romaine takes a little more work — a rinse, a spin and a little chopping — but it's not as expensive as ready-to-use baby arugula, spinach or kale. Romaine is a hearty lettuce that makes a crisp salad, and it goes with pretty much any dressing you love.

**Use regular potatoes instead of baby ones.** They look beautiful on the plate, but baby potatoes are often marked up quite a bit. Go for simple mashed white or red potatoes, or switch it up and bake some russets, which are great topped with gravy.

**Try cabbage in place of Brussels sprouts.** A must on

some people's tables, brussels sprouts are a holiday specialty and cost more per pound than their large cousins. Instead, sauté sliced Savoy red or green cabbage with a little bacon and minced onion for a deliciously smoky side.

**Swap canned cranberry sauce for homemade apple compote.** No one likes those can-shaped dents anyway. A few chopped tart apples, like Granny Smiths, plus sweet spices and a little water equals a chunky sauce that's a frugal-but-tasty complement to a classic turkey dinner.

**Serve baked winter squash instead of sweet potato casserole.** All those sweet potatoes, marshmallows and seasonings are more complicated and expensive than you need. Instead, peel, cube or slice, and roast an in-season winter squash — such as butter-nut or acorn.

TINA ANSON MINE





# Top kitchen trends for 2017

## IDEAS

## Black and white, mix and match will blow up

Americans briefly scaled back the scope of home renovation projects after the recession began nearly a decade ago, says interior designer and HGTV Design Star judge Vern Yip. But even during the peak of that focus on smaller, more sustainable living, the size and complexity of kitchen designs continued to grow.

"The kitchen is the heart of the home," Yip says, and people see it as a good place to spend money and recoup the investment when they sell their home.

What's trending in kitchen design as 2017 approaches? We've asked Yip and two other interior design experts — Caleb Anderson, co-founder of the New York-based design firm Drake/Anderson, and Brian Patrick Flynn, interior designer for HGTV's Urban Oasis 2016 home giveaway — to share their favourite innovations and thoughts on which trending design choices will stand the test of time.

### Think black and white

Black and white are the trendiest colours now for kitchen design, and Flynn points out that they're also timeless.

A black and white palette works with virtually any accent colour, he says, so "if you go black and white, you really only have to spend once."

Right now, "black appliances with more of a matte finish" are among Flynn's favourites.

Yip says cabinets in both black and white are popular, and look great mixed together.

That's another trend all three designers are seeing: upper and lower cabinets done in different finishes and materials. Anderson recently designed a kitchen in London that has upper cabinets made of metal and glass, with lower cabinets made of cerused wood. "They need to complement each other," he says, "but everything doesn't have to match."

### Get creative

Anderson also notes that it's popular to design a kitchen island out of different materials than the cabinets and counter-



A Florida kitchen designed by Vern Yip. After several years of focus on gold and other yellow-hued metals, Yip says hardware finished in "silver metals" like pewter, nickel and chrome and designed in geometric shapes are now trending in kitchen hardware. VERN YIP VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

tops. That puts a personal stamp on the room, especially if you make your island out of a distinctive piece of furniture, like a vintage cabinet.

By using popular materials in unique ways, you can design a kitchen that feels current but won't look dated as trends change. Flynn is fan of that approach: For HGTV's Urban Oasis giveaway house this year, he chose a reflective, black marble mosaic tile for the kitchen walls, from the counter all the way up to the ceiling. The look is on-trend, but has a classic beauty that won't need renovating in a few years.

He also used concrete for the countertops, a popular option now but one with a classic simplicity. Along with concrete, Anderson and Yip says quartz countertops are popular. Quartz is more durable than marble, which can easily stain, and more consistent in colour throughout a large slab. Textured and colored glass is another way to jump on a trend in ways that reflect your own style, Anderson says. He's seeing glass used to surround the hoods above stoves, for backsplashes, and as cabinet fronts.

### Mix your metals



**The hardware in your kitchen is sort of like the jewelry.**

Vern Yip

Gold, brass and other yellow-toned metal finishes have been popular for several years, says Yip, and now white metal finishes like chrome, pewter and stainless steel are catching on too.

Anderson recently used a mix of black and steel finishes in one kitchen, along with brass.

All three designers suggest going with your favourites and feeling free to mix and match.

"The hardware in your kitchen is sort of like the jewelry," and you can have fun adding that bit of bling, Yip says. Changing your hardware is a nice way to update the kitchen without having to change the cabinets.

You can also bring in a light fixture with a metal that's different from your cabinet hardware. Yip is seeing many clients opting to splurge on dramatic lighting in the kitchen, rather than in the dining room.

"The old way of thinking is you spend thousands of dollars on the crystal chandelier over the dining table, but lighting over the kitchen was practical," he says. Now, there's more em-

phasis on kitchen lighting "that doesn't feel functional but has a really polished esthetic quality."

### Tech isn't an afterthought

Flynn used a WiFi-enabled oven (easily controlled from a smart-phone) in the Urban Oasis house, as well as a refrigerator equipped with cameras accessible from a digital app, so you can see what you have inside it.

"While you are out, you can decide on the fly what to buy and bring home to be stocked up for dinner," he says.

Smaller appliances are a priority for many homeowners. "People tend to clutter their countertops with small appliances or put them in the cabinet and have to pull them out," Anderson says. So designers now routinely figure in storage space where small appliances can be concealed but easily accessed.

Also, says Anderson, "Clients have so many devices, smart devices," that they need "an area in the kitchen that's devoted to USB ports and chargers."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Geometric tiles "disrupted" by hardwood strip flooring add unexpected visual punch. NICOLAS VALLA



A new NBA labour deal was reportedly on the verge of being finalized after owners voted Wednesday to approve a proposed seven-year CBA



## Building a generational rivalry

Jack Eichel, left, and Connor McDavid JEN FULLER/GETTY IMAGES

NHL

### McDavid leads the way in next marquee matchup

No matter where the Edmonton Oilers travel, captain Connor McDavid is confronted by the same questions and comparisons to the opposing team's star.

In Buffalo, it's Jack Eichel, who was selected second in the 2015 draft behind McDavid. In Toronto, it's Auston Matthews, the No. 1 pick last June.

In Pittsburgh, it's Sidney Crosby, the obvious measuring stick for the NHL's entire "Next Generation" crop of youngsters.

Intriguing as the discussions are, McDavid would prefer not to be involved.

"I think it can be a bit of a sideshow sometimes," the NHL's points leader said during a recent stop in Buffalo, where his budding rivalry with Eichel was broached. "It seems like there's a new guy everywhere we go."

The same applies to Oilers coach Todd McLellan, who enjoyed a firsthand glimpse of the league's top young stars while coaching the 23-and-under Team North America at the World Cup of Hockey in September.

"You'd like to capture that and reproduce it during the winter, but that's really, really hard to do with 82 games and 30 teams," McLellan said. "But for us, I get asked those questions night after night after night."

McLellan would rather place the focus on his entire squad and not just McDavid, who at 19 has enough weight on his shoulders.

"Ryan Nugent-Hopkins is a former first overall pick, Leon Draisaitl: these players have to not take a backseat," McLellan said. "They have to step up and lead as well. And Connor can't do it by himself every night."

Team versus individual aside, the comparisons won't stop any time soon. And in years to come, the buzz will increase particularly once the torch of the NHL's marquee matchup, which used to be Wayne Gretzky versus Mario Lemieux, is passed on from Crosby versus Alex Ovechkin.

NBC broadcaster Pierre

McGuire is intrigued by the many possibilities, all of which involve McDavid, whom he already regards as the league's second-best player behind Crosby.

Aside from Eichel and Matthews, McGuire points to the Winnipeg Jets' young tandem of Mark Scheifele and Patrik Laine as natural rivals to McDavid. Unlike Toronto and Buffalo, who play in the Eastern Conference and meet Edmonton just twice a season, the Jets play in the West.

The prospect of seeing the Canadian-born McDavid facing off against the U.S.-born Eichel led McGuire to lobby the NHL to continue playing on the international stage.

"That's why we have to go to the Olympics, for this to flesh out," he said. "That's what creates a lot of these gigantic rivalries." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

### Second most points is 'like No. 1' to Jagr

Jaromir Jagr knows No. 2 is as high as he'll go on the NHL career scoring list.

In his mind, that's a record in itself.

Jagr's next point will be the 1,888th of his career and give him outright possession of second place on the all-time NHL points list, breaking a tie with Mark Messier. Only Wayne Gretzky's total of 2,857 is bet-

ing to stay far from his reach.

"For me, it's like No. 1," Jagr said recently when asked what passing Messier would mean. "I don't really count Wayne

Gretzky. He was from another planet. I don't think he was from this planet. Whatever he did, it's unbreakable."

Jagr caught Messier on Tuesday with a three-assist effort in Florida's shootout win over Buf-

falo. His next chance for the tiebreaker is Thursday, when the Panthers play host to the Boston Bruins.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**I just enjoy every moment I get a chance to play in this league and try to do everything I can to stay in this league.**

Jaromir Jagr

### IN BRIEF

#### Bum thumb pushes Cavs' Smith out of action

Cavaliers starting guard J.R. Smith will be out indefinitely with a broken right thumb, an injury that will test the depth of the defending NBA champions.

Smith got hurt late in the second quarter of Tuesday night's game in Milwaukee and didn't return after halftime in a game the Cavs won 114-108 in overtime.

The team did not say when Smith will have surgery. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### Canadian ski cross racers win silver, bronze medals

Germany's Heidi Zacher won gold Wednesday at the ski cross World Cup while Canadians Marielle Thompson and Georgia Simmerling joined her on the podium in Innichen, Italy.

Simmerling, from West Vancouver, B.C., had the lead for most of the big final before slipping to third. Thompson, from Whistler, B.C., took the silver to retain her lead in the season standings. THE CANADIAN PRESS



**SHOVELLER TOURNAMENT**

THE ROD & JOAN SHOVELLER MEMORIAL MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT  
Presented by HealthView MEDICAL IMAGING

**DECEMBER 29-31**

FEATURING: Acadia, Dalhousie, Ottawa, Queen's, Mount Royal, StFX, Saint Mary's, and UPEI

Regular Admission:  
\$10 Doubleheader  
\$25 Tournament Pass

Senior/Mon-Dal Student:  
\$8 Doubleheader  
\$20 Tournament Pass

Corporate Ticket Pack:  
\$100 for 6 tournament passes,  
Team Ticket Pack: \$30 for a day pass  
for 12 athletes and 2 coaches

To purchase tournament passes,  
please call 902-494-3372 or visit  
the Dalplex Customer Service Centre.



**WWW.DALTIGERS.CA**



MAKE IT TONIGHT

# Comforting Slow Cooker Chicken Stew



PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**  
For Metro Canada

Just a bit of prep in the morning and you'll come home to a satisfying dinner.

**Ready in 6 hours 10 minutes**

Prep time: 10 minutes  
Serves 4

**Ingredients**

- 6 chicken thighs
- 1 potato, peeled and cubed
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 onions, chopped
- 4 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 1 Tbsp fresh thyme (1 tsp dried)
- 1 or 2 bay leaves
- 1/4 cup flour
- 2 cups low-sodium chicken stock
- 1 cup fresh or frozen peas
- 1/2 cup light cream

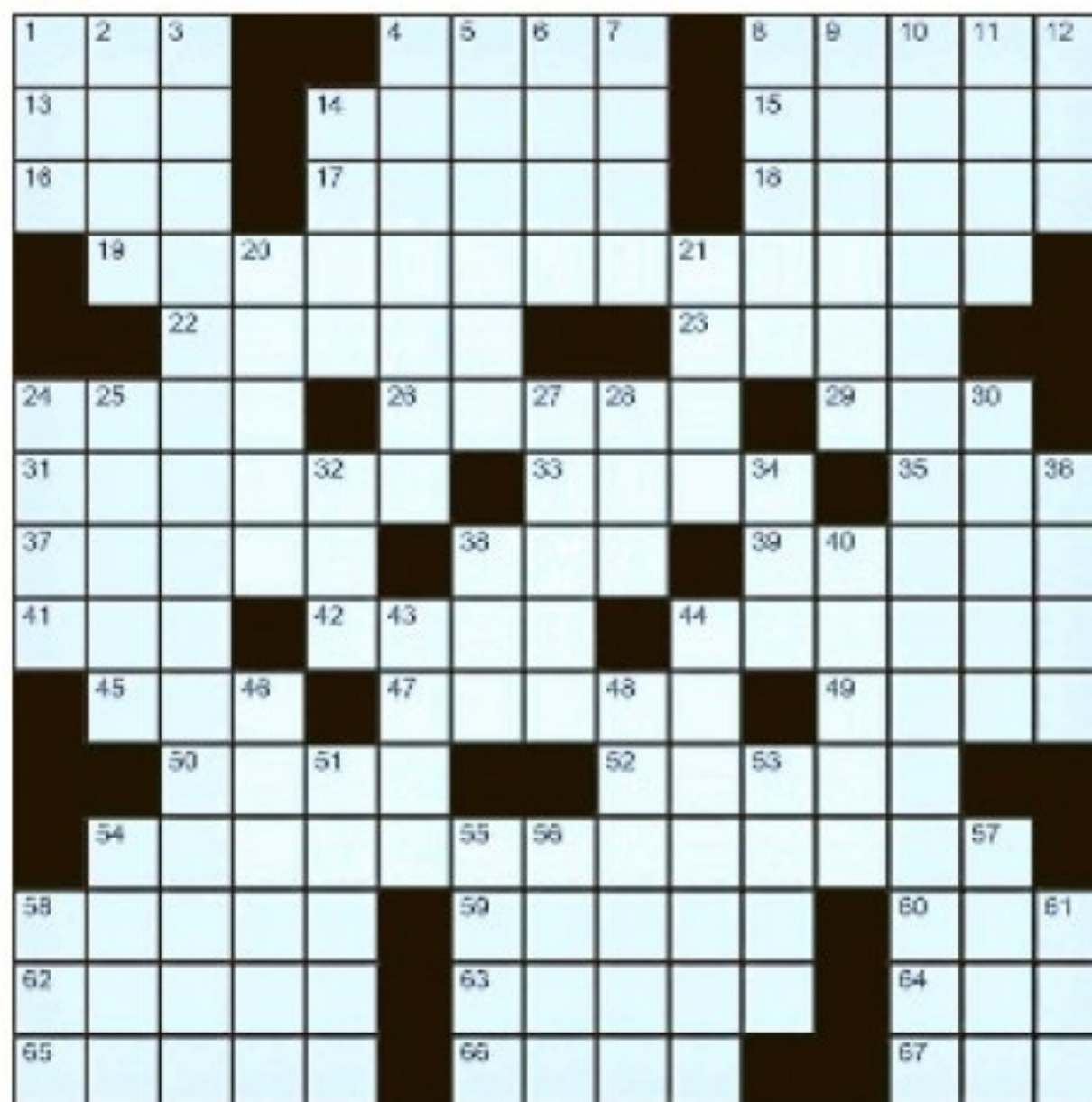
**Directions**

1. In a Dutch oven or high-sided skillet, sauté onions, celery and carrots in splash of vegetable oil for about five minutes.
2. Add flour, thyme and bay leaves and stir for a minute. Add stock and stir until smooth. Simmer for 3 or 4 minutes until sauce thickens.
3. Add the potatoes and good pinch of salt and pepper.
4. Place chicken thighs in the bottom of slow cooker and spoon the vegetable mixture over. Seal and set for 6 hours.
5. Add peas and cream and cook for 10 more minutes. Serve plain or over mashed potatoes.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT  
SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

## CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



**ACROSS**

1. Australian boot maker
4. Snowplow's creation
8. Cosmetics brand
13. For
14. Angels and Earthly Creatures writer, Elinor
15. Jeweller's eye piece
16. Lawn roll
17. Chicago's airport
18. The (Poem by British poet William Blake)
19. Signs indicating that Santa and his delivery crew have just landed: 3 wds.
22. havoc
23. Nobel Peace Prize city
24. Money Object link: 2 wds.
26. French painter Mr. Dufy
29. Sotheby's fare
31. Liveliness
33. Mr. Kilmer's
35. Drummer Mr. Cool
37. Until this moment: 2 wds.
38. Tommy Jones connector
39. Laughs
41. Note before Lah
42. Air freshener target, variantly
44. Toronto college; or, Roman statesman
45. Never: German
47. On a ship, sea
49. Nero's 602
50. Coin insertion place

52. Canadian sweets shop, Secord
54. Bit of "We Three Kings of Orient Are": "Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying / Sealed in the"
58. Unflappable
59. Take apart shoelaces

60. Antiquity
62. oeuvre (Appetizer)
63. Self-righteous
64. Mr. Orbison
65. Showbiz performer Martha's
66. Canadian director Mr. Egoyan
67. inspiring

**DOWN**

1. Sit- (Exercises)
2. David of "Rhoda"
3. What it's predicted Rudolph will do at the end of his Christmas tune: 4 wds.
4. How to completely memorize something: 2 wds.

5. Sarah Palin's state
6. De Robert
7. Ardent
8. Some choral voices
9. One of Montreal's Concordia University campuses
10. Have fun with photos pos-

- ing: 4 wds.
11. Imitates
12. "darn tootin'!"
14. Created tap-estries
20. Storm aka Munroe, Halle Berry's character in "X-Men: Days of Future Past" (2014)
21. Bun
24. 'Violin' suffixes
25. Serving (Dinner-time utensil)
27. Obvious
28. Dubai's locale, commonly
30. Ms. Bingham of "Baywatch"
32. "Letters from Jima" (2006)
34. Particular pronoun
36. Mr. Morales
38. Mr. Ferrigno
40. Prefix meaning 'Male'
43. Fawn
44. The Olympic in Montreal
46. Author S.E. Hinton = Susan Hinton
48. The Beatles' 'Yellow Submarine' album tune: "It's Much"
51. Where musicians store their songs: 2 wds.
53. Driving 4x4s, commonly
54. Ancient colonnade
55. Lipton soup
56. Kool & The Gang's "Get Down"
57. Gust
58. Stock unit [abbr.]
61. Hair tinter

## IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

**Aries** March 21 - April 20  
This is a wonderful day to enjoy the company of others, especially partners and close friends. You also will enjoy dealing with members of the general public.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21  
Work-related travel is likely today. Fortunately, you feel upbeat and happy, especially relating to co-workers and customers. People will be honest and candid with you today.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21  
This is a fun-loving day! You will enjoy social outings, sports events and playful activities with children. Seek out opportunities to express your creative talents.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23  
Family conversations will go well today, especially with female relatives, moms and aunts. Explore real-estate opportunities; however, wait until tomorrow to act with purpose.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23  
Today you feel quite content with your world. This is why you will enjoy chatting with siblings, neighbors and relatives. It feels good to be upbeat and optimistic.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23  
This is an excellent day for business and commerce. Travelling for work is very likely. Nevertheless, postpone important financial decisions until tomorrow.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23  
Today it's easy to feel sympathetic and generous to others. In part, this is because you feel fortunate, but you also have a concern for the welfare of those who are less fortunate.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22  
You feel content today, which is why you are happy to work behind the scenes. Your busy pace lately has been a bit exhausting, and you know it!

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21  
A conversation with a friend or a member of a group might encourage you to be more ambitious about your future goals. Consider these today; however, wait until tomorrow to finalize anything.

**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20  
People notice you today. They might even learn information about you. Just be aware of this in case you want to guard your privacy. Be aware of your reputation.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19  
Do something different today, because you are upbeat and eager to explore new situations. In particular, you want to learn something new that interests you. Travel if you can.

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20  
In many ways, you will benefit from others today. Someone might do you a favor or make a promise. Wait to find out if this promise will ring true.

## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

9				5				2
						3	8	
		2	9	1			6	
		1						
4		3		2		7		5
						8		
	1			9	5	2		
	4	8						
7				6				4

©2014 Conceptis Puzzles, Ltd. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

**DOWNLOAD METRO'S NEW APP NOW**

•LOCAL NEWS • VIEWS • LIFE • SPORTS

OFFLINE READING

**YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS**

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to [metronews.ca/games](http://metronews.ca/games)





# DARTMOUTH HYUNDAI HOLIDAY DEALS

OFFERS END  
DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

**\$35\***  
WEEKLY  
for LEASE or  
FINANCE



Ultimate model shown

2017  
**ELANTRA**



**\$2,500\*** MIN TRADE  
GUARANTEE

STARTING AT  
**\$13,499\***

OPTIONAL  
UPGRADE FEATURES

HEATED  
STEERING WHEEL



FRONT AND REAR  
HEATED SEATS



BACK-UP  
CAMERA



BLIND SPOT  
DETECTION



DON'T PAY A CENT UNTIL **SPRING** | SIGN & DRIVE!

2017  
**SANTA FE**



**HOLIDAYS**  
ON HYUNDAI EVENT

**\$3,000\*** MIN TRADE  
GUARANTEE

STARTING AT  
**\$25,599\***



**\$65\***  
WEEKLY  
for LEASE or  
FINANCE

Ultimate model shown

OPTIONAL  
UPGRADE FEATURES

HEATED  
STEERING WHEEL



FRONT AND REAR  
HEATED SEATS



BACK-UP  
CAMERA



BLIND SPOT  
DETECTION



**5**  
YEAR  
WARRANTY

CANADA'S BEST  
MANAGED COMPANIES  
Platinum member

**O'REGAN'S**  
DRIVING HIGHER STANDARDS®

DARTMOUTH  
HYUNDAI

60 BAKER DRIVE, UNIT - D  
902-465-7500  
oreganshyundaidartmouth.com

\*Model(s) may not be exactly as shown. Starting price includes the required minimum trade value. Payments based on min trade value and using prepaid card as discount. Please see dealer for details.